



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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HANTAVIRUS CONFIRMED IN A WILD MOUSE

Use Caution When Spring Cleaning

County Vector Control confirmed today one wild mouse in the Tijuana River Valley area has tested positive for Hantavirus. The mouse was trapped during routine Vector Control monitoring.

Hantavirus is carried by wild rodents, primarily deer mice. The virus, found in rodent droppings and urine, can be inhaled by humans when it becomes airborne in indoors. The airborne virus can cause Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS), which is a rare illness that can be fatal.

The first signs of human illness caused by Hantavirus are similar to flu symptoms. They include fatigue, fever, muscle aches, headache, dizziness, chills, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain. Later symptoms of HPS include coughing, shortness of breath rapidly progressing to severe difficulty in breathing, and sometimes death.

While there is no specific treatment for Hantavirus, there are ways to avoid exposure to the virus. "While spring cleaning indoors do not stir up dust or materials that may be contaminated with rodent droppings and urine", said Gary Erbeck, director of the Department of Environmental Health. "Clean up rodent droppings and urine using the wet cleaning method".

Do not sweep or vacuum. WET CLEANING METHODS:

- Ventilate affected area by opening doors and windows for at least 30 minutes.
- Use rubber gloves. Spray a 10% bleach solution (2 tablespoons bleach to 1 cup of water) onto dead rodents, rodent droppings, nests, contaminated traps and surrounding areas and let the disinfectant stand for at least 15 minutes before cleaning. Clean with a sponge or a mop.
- Place disinfected waste into two plastic bags, seal them and discard in the trash.
- Wash gloves in a bleach solution, then soap and water, and dispose of them using the same double-bag method. Thoroughly wash your bare hands with soap and water.

For more information, visit www.sdvector.com.

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